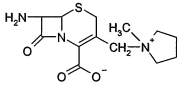
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

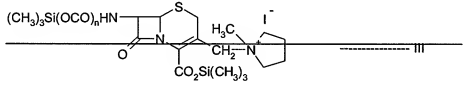
Claims 1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:

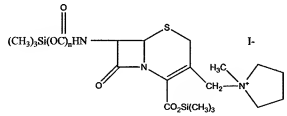


---------- II

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 10% or less of the Δ^2 isomer, which comprises treating the compound of formula III:



---------- III



---------- III

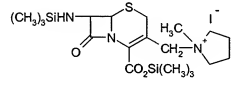
wherein n = 0 or 1,

in cyclohexane with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally

converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

30. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 29, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

31. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 29, wherein the compound of the formula III used is the compound IIIa;

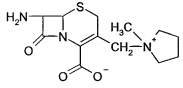


---------- IIIa

32. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 29, wherein the C_1 - C_4 - alkanol is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, methanol and ethanol.

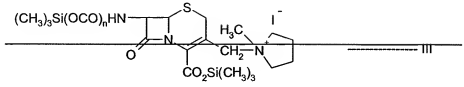
33. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 32, wherein the C_1 - C_4 - alkanol is isopropyl alcohol.

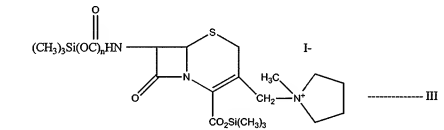
34. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:



---------- II

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 3% <u>or less</u> of the Δ^2 isomer, which comprises treating the compound of formula III:



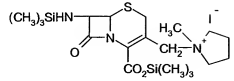


wherein n = 0 or 1,

in cyclohexane with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

35. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 34, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

36. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 34, wherein the compound of the formula III used is the compound IIIa;

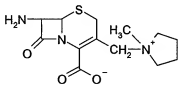


---------- IIIa

37. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 34, wherein the C_1 - C_4 - alkanol is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, methanol and ethanol.

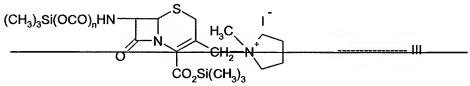
38. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 37, wherein the C_1 - C_4 - alkanol is isopropyl alcohol.

39. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:

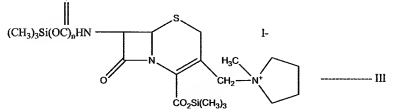


---------- II

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 0.4% <u>or less</u> of the Δ^2 isomer, which comprises treating the compound of formula III:



---------- III



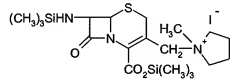
---------- III

wherein n = 0 or 1,

in cyclohexane with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

40. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 39, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

41. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 39, wherein the compound of the formula III used is the compound IIIa;

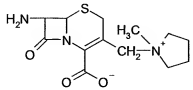


---------- IIIa

42. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 39, wherein the C_1 - C_4 - alkanol is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, methanol and ethanol.

43. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 42, wherein the C_1 - C_4 - alkanol is isopropyl alcohol.

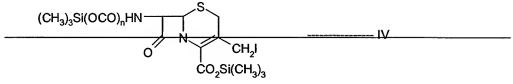
44. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:

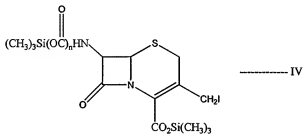


---------- II

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 10% <u>or less</u> of the Δ^2 isomer, comprising the steps of:

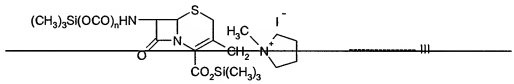
a) reacting the compound of formula IV:

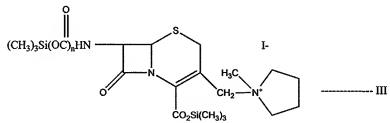




wherein n = 0 or 1,

in cyclohexane with N-methylpyrrolidine to produce the compound of formula III:





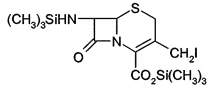
wherein n = 0 or 1,

and

(b) treating the compound of formula III in cyclohexane with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

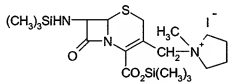
45. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 44, wherein the conversion into the salt in step (b) is carried out by treating the compound of formula II with hydrochloric acid or hydroiodic acid.

46. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 44, wherein the compound of formula IV used is the compound IVa:



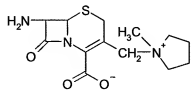
---------- IVa

to obtain the compound formula IIIa:



---------- IIIa

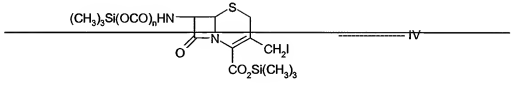
47. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:

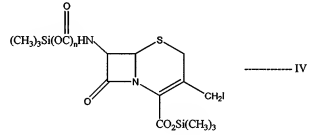


---------- II

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 3% or less of the Δ^2 isomer, comprising the steps of:

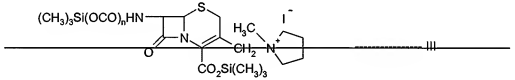
b) reacting the compound of formula IV:

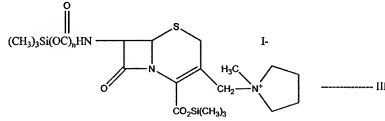




wherein n = 0 or 1,

in cyclohexane with N-methylpyrrolidine to produce the compound of formula III:





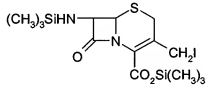
wherein n = 0 or 1,

and

(c) treating the compound of formula III in cyclohexane with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

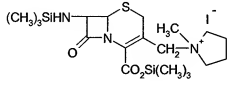
48. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 47, wherein the conversion into the salt in step (b) is carried out by treating the compound of formula II with hydrochloric acid or hydroiodic acid.

49. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 47, wherein the compound of formula IV used is the compound IVa:



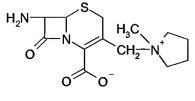
---------- IVa

to obtain the compound formula IIIa:



---------- IIIa

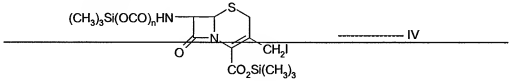
50. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:

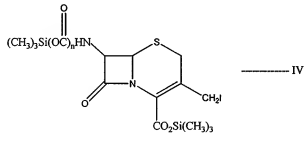


---------- II

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 0.4% or less of the Δ^2 isomer, comprising the steps of:

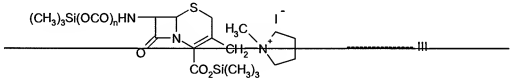
c) reacting the compound of formula IV:

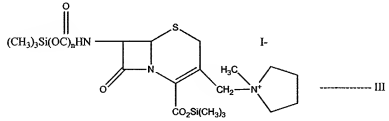




wherein n = 0 or 1,

in cyclohexane with N-methylpyrrolidine to produce the compound of formula III:





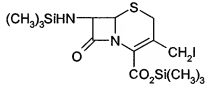
wherein n = 0 or 1,

and

(d) treating the compound of formula III in cyclohexane with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

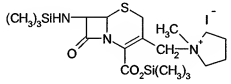
51. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 50, wherein the conversion into the salt in step (b) is carried out by treating the compound of formula II with hydrochloric acid or hydroiodic acid.

52. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 50, wherein the compound of formula IV used is the compound IVa:



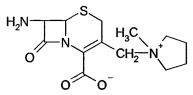
---------- IVa

to obtain the compound formula IIIa:



---------- IIIa

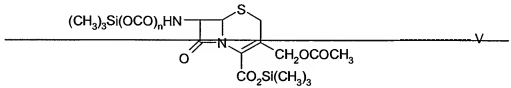
53. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:

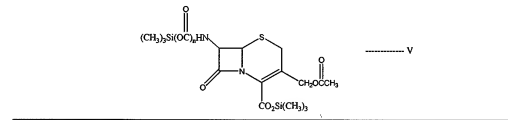


---------- II

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 10% or less of the Δ^2 isomer, comprising the steps of:

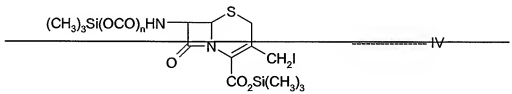
a) reacting the compound of formula V:

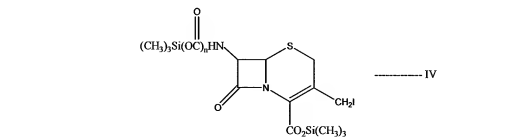




wherein n = 0 or 1,

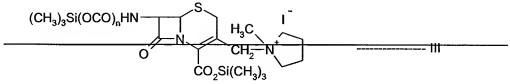
in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of trimethylsilyl iodide per equivalent of compound of formula V to produce the compound of formula IV:

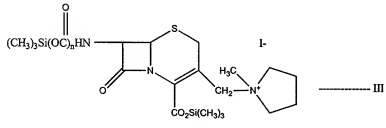




wherein n = 0 or 1,

d) reacting the compound of formula IV in cyclohexane with N-methylpyrrolidine to produce the compound of formula III:





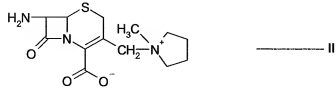
wherein n = 0 or 1,

and

(e) treating the compound of formula III in cyclohexane with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

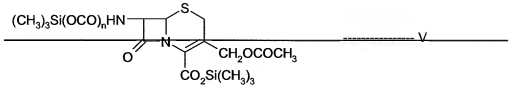
54. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 53, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

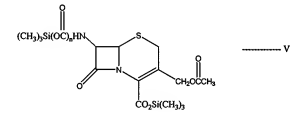
55. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:



or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 3% less of the Δ^2 isomer, comprising the steps of:

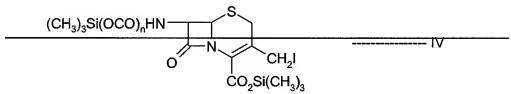
a) reacting the compound of formula V:

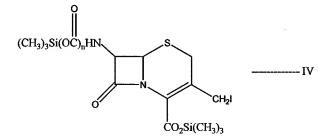




wherein n = 0 or 1,

in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of trimethylsilyl iodide per equivalent of compound of formula V to produce the compound of formula IV:

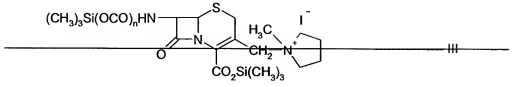


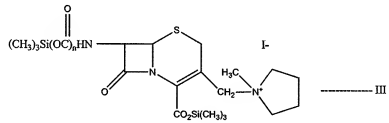


wherein n = 0 or 1,

e) reacting the compound of formula IV in cyclohexane with N-methylpyrrolidine to

produce the compound of formula III:





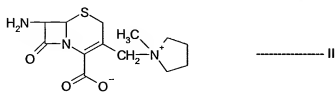
wherein n = 0 or 1,

and

(f) treating the compound of formula III in cyclohexane with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

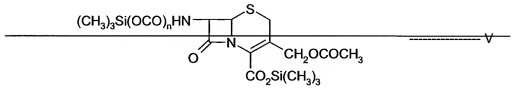
56. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 55, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

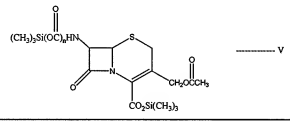
57. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:



or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 0.4% <u>or less</u> of the Δ^2 isomer, comprising the steps of:

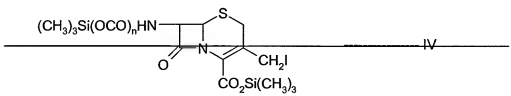
a) reacting the compound of formula V:

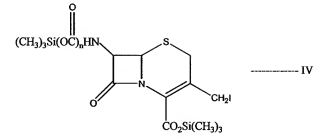




wherein n = 0 or 1,

in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of trimethylsilyl iodide per equivalent of compound of formula V to produce the compound of formula IV:

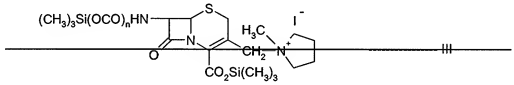




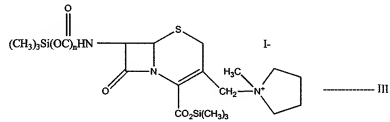
IV

wherein n = 0 or 1,

f) reacting the compound of formula IV in cyclohexane with N-methylpyrrolidine to produce the compound of formula III:



III



III

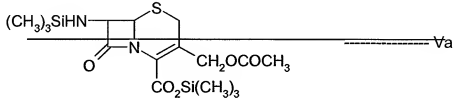
wherein n = 0 or 1,

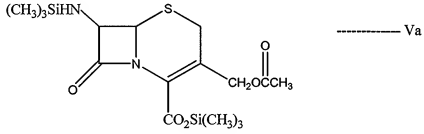
and

(g) treating the compound of formula III in cyclohexane with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

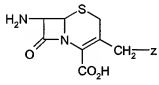
58. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 57, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

59. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 57, wherein the compound of the formula V used is the compound Va;

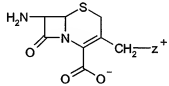




60. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula I(i) or I(ii):



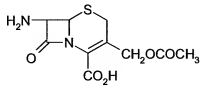
I(i)



I(ii)

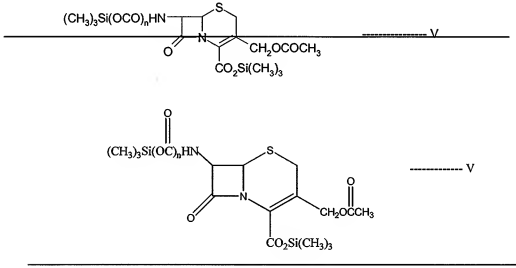
or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 10% <u>or less</u> of the Δ^2 isomer, comprising the steps of:

a) treating the compound of formula VI:



VI

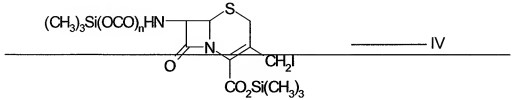
in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of hexamethyldisilazane per equivalent of compound of formula VI and catalytic amount of trimethylsilyl iodide to produce the compound of formula V:



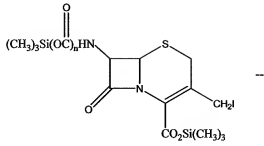
V

wherein n = 0 or 1,

b) treating the compound of formula V in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of trimethylsilyl iodide per equivalent of compound of formula V to produce the compound of formula IV:



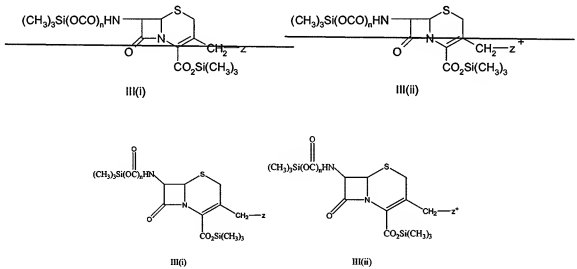
IV



---------- IV

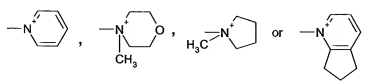
wherein n = 0 or 1,

c) reacting the compound of formula IV in cyclohexane with ~~[[Z]]~~ Z or HZ to produce the compound of formula III(i) or with ~~Z~~ Z^+ to produce the compound of formula IIII(ii):



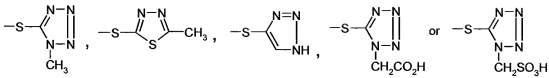
wherein n = 0 or 1,

Z^+ is



and

Z is



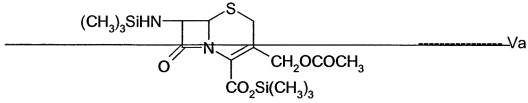
(h) treating the compound of formula III(i) or III(ii) in cyclohexane with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula I(i) or I(ii).

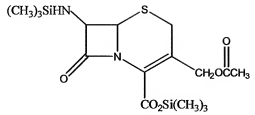
61. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 60, wherein the compound produced in step (c) is III(i) wherein Z^+ is

and n = 0.

62. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 60, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

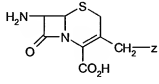
63. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 62, wherein the compound of the formula V used is the compound Va;



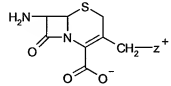


---------- Va

64. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula I(i) or I(ii):



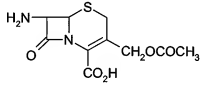
I(i)



I(ii)

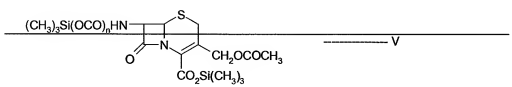
or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 3% less of the Δ^2 isomer, comprising the steps of:

a) treating the compound of formula VI:

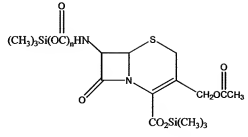


---------- VI

in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of hexamethyldisilazane per equivalent of compound of formula VI and catalytic amount of trimethylsilyl iodide to produce the compound of formula V:



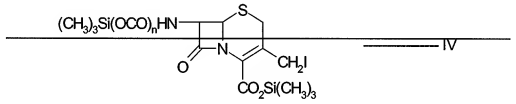
---------- V



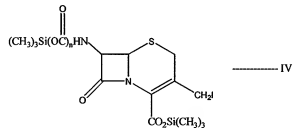
V

wherein n = 0 or 1,

b) treating the compound of formula V in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of trimethylsilyl iodide per equivalent of compound of formula V to produce the compound of formula IV:



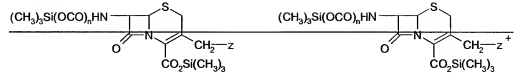
IV



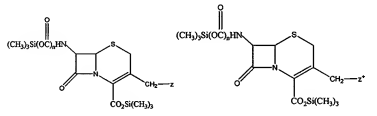
IV

wherein n = 0 or 1,

c) reacting the compound of formula IV in cyclohexane with ~~Z~~ Z or HZ to produce the compound of formula III(i) or with ~~Z~~ Z^+ to produce the compound of formula IIII(ii):



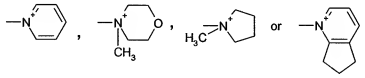
III(i) III(ii)



III(i) III(ii)

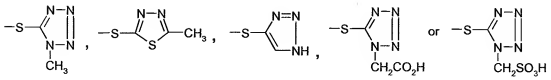
wherein n = 0 or 1,

Z^+ is



and

Z is



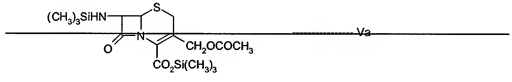
(i) treating the compound of formula III(i) or III(ii) in cyclohexane with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula I(i) or I(ii).

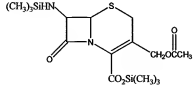
65. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 64, wherein the compound produced in step (c) is III(i) wherein Z^+ is

and n = 0.

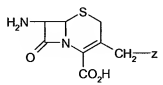
66. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 64, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

67. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 66, wherein the compound of the formula V used is the compound Va;

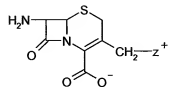




68. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula I(i) or I(ii):



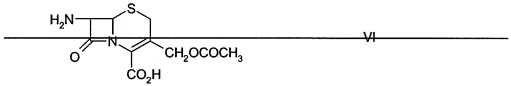
I(i)



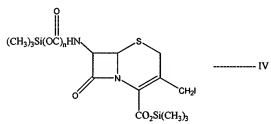
I(ii)

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 0.4% or less of the Δ^2 isomer, comprising the steps of:

a) treating the compound of formula VI:



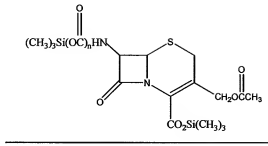
VI



IV

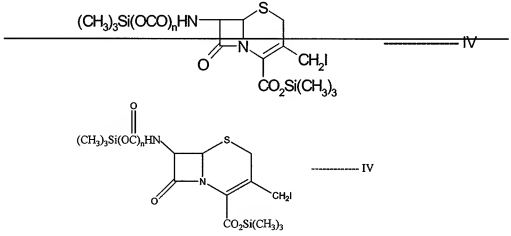
in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of hexamethyldisilazane per equivalent of compound of formula VI and catalytic amount of trimethylsilyl iodide to produce the compound of formula V:

V



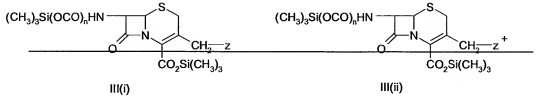
wherein n = 0 or 1,

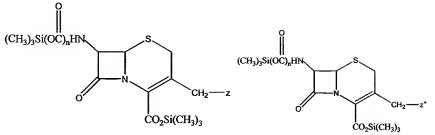
b) treating the compound of formula V in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of trimethylsilyl iodide per equivalent of compound of formula V to produce the compound of formula IV:



wherein n = 0 or 1,

c) reacting the compound of formula IV in cyclohexane with ~~[[Z]]~~ Z or HZ to produce the compound of formula III(i) or with ~~Z~~ Z^+ to produce the compound of formula IIII(ii):

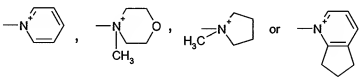




III(i) III(ii)

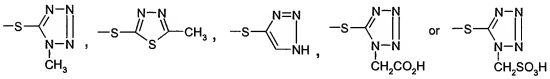
wherein n = 0 or 1,

Z^+ is



and

Z is



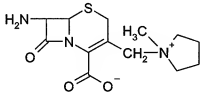
(j) treating the compound of formula III(i) or III(ii) in cyclohexane with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula I(i) or I(ii).

69. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 68, wherein the compound produced in step (c) is III(i) wherein Z^+ is

and n = 0.

70. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 68, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

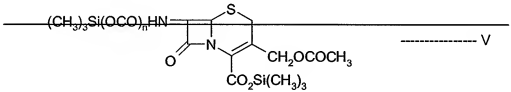
71. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:



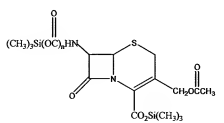
---------- II

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 10% <u>or less</u> of the Δ^2 isomer,

which comprises treating a solution of the compound of formula V:



---------- V



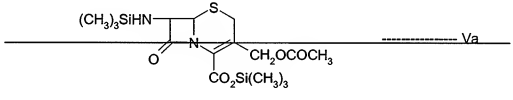
---------- V

wherein n = 0 or 1,

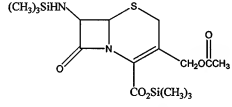
in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of N-methylpyrrolidine then with at least one equivalent of trimethylsilyl iodide per equivalent of compound of formula V, followed by treatment with a C_1 - C_4 - alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

72. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 71, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

73. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 71, wherein the compound of the formula V used is the compound Va;

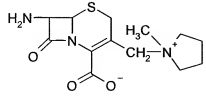


---------- Va



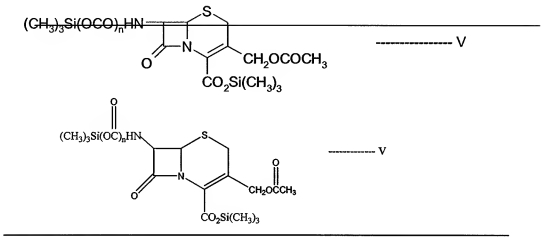
---------- Va

74. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:



---------- II

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 3% <u>or less</u> of the Δ^2 isomer, which comprises treating a solution of the compound of formula V:

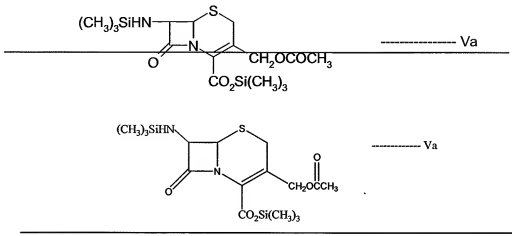


wherein n = 0 or 1,

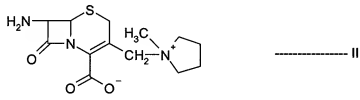
in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of N-methylpyrrolidine then with at least one equivalent of trimethylsilyl iodide per equivalent of compound of formula V, followed by treatment with a C_1 - C_4 - alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

75. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 74, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

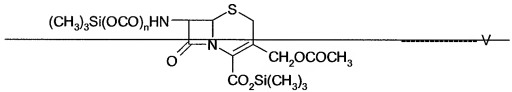
76. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 74, wherein the compound of the formula V used is the compound Va;

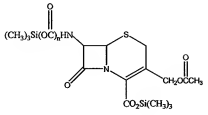


77. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:



or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 0.4% <u>or less</u> of the Δ^2 isomer, which comprises treating a solution of the compound of formula V:





---------- V

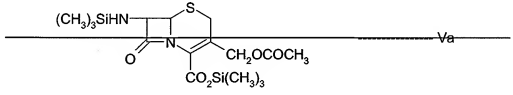
---

wherein n = 0 or 1,

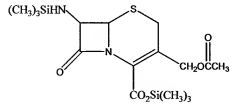
in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of N-methylpyrrolidine then with at least one equivalent of trimethylsilyl iodide per equivalent of compound of formula V, followed by treatment with a C_1 - C_4 - alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

78. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 77, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

79. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 77, wherein the compound of the formula V used is the compound Va;



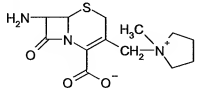
---------- Va



---------- Va

---

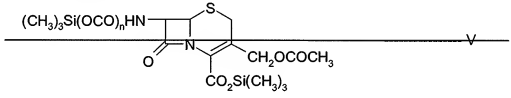
80. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:



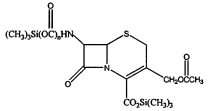
---------- II

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 10% or less of the Δ^2 isomer, which

comprises treating a solution of the compound of formula V:

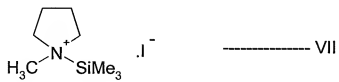


V



---------- V

wherein n = 0 or 1, in cyclohexane with the compound of formula VII:

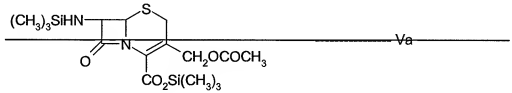


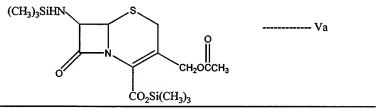
---------- VII

in cyclohexane, followed by treatment with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

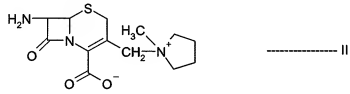
81. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 80, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

82. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 81, wherein the compound of the formula V used is the compound Va;



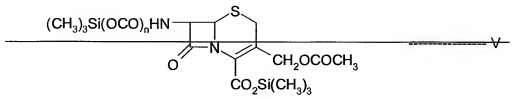


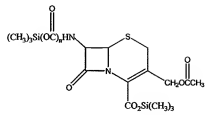
83. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:



or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 3% <u>or less</u> of the Δ^2 isomer, which

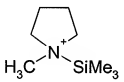
comprises treating a solution of the compound of formula V:





---------- V

wherein n = 0 or 1, in cyclohexane with the compound of formula VII:

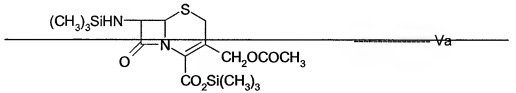


---------- VII

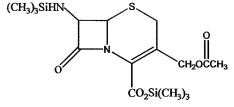
in cyclohexane, followed by treatment with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

84. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 83, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

85. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 83, wherein the compound of the formula V used is the compound Va;

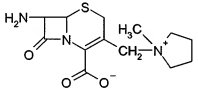


---------- Va



---------- Va

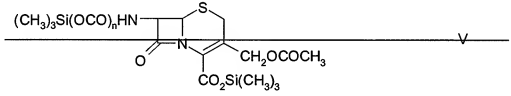
86. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:



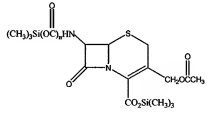
---------- II

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 0.4% or less of the Δ^2 isomer, which

comprises treating a solution of the compound of formula V:

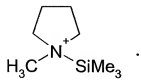


V



---------- V

wherein n = 0 or 1, in cyclohexane with the compound of formula VII:

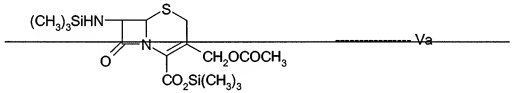


---------- VII

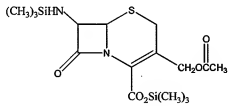
in cyclohexane, followed by treatment with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

87. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 86, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

88. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 86, wherein the compound of the formula V used is the compound Va;

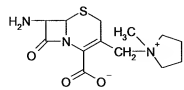


---------- Va



---------- Va

89. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:

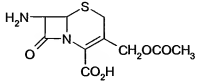


---------- II

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 10% or less of the Δ^2 isomer,

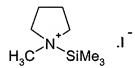
which

comprises treating a solution of the compound of formula VI:



---------- VI

in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of hexamethyldisilazane per equivalent of compound VI and then with the compound of formula VII:



---------- VII

in cyclohexane, followed by treatment with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

90. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 89, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

91. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 89, wherein the reaction with the compound VII is carried out in the presence of trimethylsilyl iodide.

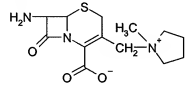
92. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 89, wherein the reaction with hexamethyldisilazane is carried out in the presence of the catalytic amounts of imidazole and acetamide.

93. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 89, wherein the reaction with hexamethyldisilazane is carried out in the presence of the catalytic amount of trimethylsilyliodide.

94. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 89, wherein the C_1 - C_4 - alkanol is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, methanol and ethanol.

95. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 94, wherein the C_1 - C_4 - alkanol is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, methanol and ethanol.

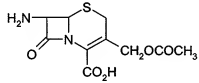
96. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:



---------- II

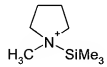
or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 3% <u>or less</u> of the Δ^2 isomer, which

comprises treating a solution of the compound of formula VI:



---------- VI

in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of hexamethyldisilazane per equivalent of compound VI and then with the compound of formula VII:



---------- VII

in cyclohexane, followed by treatment with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

97. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 96, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

98. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 96, wherein the reaction with the compound VII is carried out in the presence of trimethylsilyl iodide.

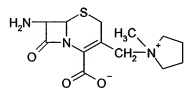
99. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 96, wherein the reaction with hexamethyldisilazane is carried out in the presence of the catalytic amounts of imidazole and acetamide.

100. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 96, wherein the reaction with hexamethyldisilazane is carried out in the presence of the catalytic amount of trimethylsilyliodide.

101. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 96, wherein the C_1 - C_4 - alkanol is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, methanol and ethanol.

102. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 101, wherein the C_1 - C_4 - alkanol is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, methanol and ethanol.

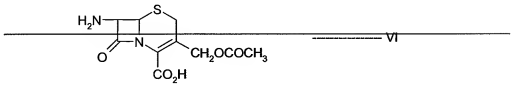
103. (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the compound of formula II:



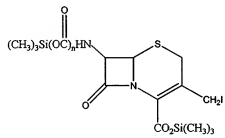
---------- II

or a salt thereof, wherein the compound comprises ~~less than about~~ 0.4% or less of the Δ^2 isomer, which

comprises treating a solution of the compound of formula VI:



---------- VI



---------- IV

in cyclohexane with at least one equivalent of hexamethyldisilazane per equivalent of compound VI and then with the compound of formula VII:

---------- VII

in cyclohexane, followed by treatment with a C_1 - C_4 -alkanol or water to remove silyl protecting groups, optionally converting to the salt of the compound of formula II.

104. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 103, wherein the salt is hydrochloride or hydroiodide salt.

105. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 103, wherein the reaction with the compound VII is carried out in the presence of trimethylsilyl iodide.

106. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 103, wherein the reaction with hexamethyldisilazane is carried out in the presence of the catalytic amounts of imidazole and acetamide.

107. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 103, wherein the reaction with hexamethyldisilazane is carried out in the presence of the catalytic amount of trimethylsilyliodide.

108. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 103, wherein the C_1 - C_4 - alkanol is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, methanol and ethanol.

109. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 103, wherein the C_1 - C_4 - alkanol is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, methanol and ethanol.

110. (Canceled)